Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 3-17, 20, and 24-28 and replace the claims currently in the application with the following listing of claims:

1. (Previously Canceled)

2. (Previously Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Canceled)

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for humidifying reactant gases for use in a fuel cell, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a housing defining a humidification chamber through which a reactant gas travels before participating in an electrochemical reaction in a fuel cell;

further providing a humidification assembly adjacent to said housing, said humidification assembly comprising a porous wick and a source of humidifying liquid, wherein said porous wick

comprises a ceramic formed from a mixture comprising water, nitric acid, hollow polymer spheres, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a zirconium compound, aluminum oxide, and silicon oxide, and

separates the source of humidifying liquid from the humidification chamber such that the humidifying liquid flows through the wick before humidifying the reactant gas traveling through the humidification chamber;

communicating the humidifying liquid into the wick;

receiving the reactant gas in the humidification chamber; and

humidifying the reactant gas with humidifying liquid as the reactant gas flows across the wick in the humidification chamber.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for humidifying reactant gases for use in a fuel cell, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a housing defining a humidification chamber through which a reactant gas travels before participating in an electrochemical reaction in a fuel cell;

further providing a humidification assembly adjacent to said housing, said humidification assembly comprising a porous wick and a source of humidifying liquid, wherein said porous wick

comprises a metal formed from a mixture comprising metal powder, a binding agent, water, and hollow polymer spheres, and

separates the source of humidifying liquid from the humidification chamber such that the humidifying liquid flows through the wick before humidifying the reactant gas traveling through the humidification chamber;

communicating the humidifying liquid into the wick;

receiving the reactant gas in the humidification chamber; and

humidifying the reactant gas with humidifying liquid as the reactant gas flows across the wick in the humidification chamber.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said metal powder comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of iron, chromium, bronze, brass, copper, and nickel.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)